

PATENT
Serial No. 10/528,624
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of April 18, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A driving apparatus comprising at least two driving members and at least one driven member, wherein each of the at least two driving members is frictionally engaged to the at least ~~one~~ three driven members to move said driven member, wherein the friction between each driven member and each driving member is such that the driven member moves when over half of the driving members being in frictional engagement with said driven member are moved simultaneously between a first and a second position, wherein the friction between each driven member and each driving member is such that the driven member substantially remains stationary when less than half of the driving members being in frictional engagement with said driven member are moved.

2. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least two piezoelectric elements arranged to move the at least two driving members independently.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises comprising at least three driving members and at least one driven member, wherein each of the at least two driving members is frictionally engaged to the at least one driven member to move said driven member, wherein the friction between each driven member and each driving member is such that the driven member moves when over half of the driving members being in frictional engagement with said driven member are moved simultaneously between a first and a second position, wherein the friction between each driven member and each driving member is such that the driven member substantially remains stationary when less than half of the driving members being in frictional engagement with said driven member are moved.

4. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to

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claim 3, wherein the apparatus comprises at least two driven members.

5. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a first driving member is frictionally engaged to a first driven member only, wherein a second driving member is frictionally engaged to a second driven member only, wherein a third driving member is frictionally engaged to both the first and the second driven member.

6. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least four driving members.

Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the driving members is at least partially surrounded by part of the at least one driven member.

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9. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each driven member comprises a section of a substantially cylindrical element.

10. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each driving member comprises an elongated member.

11. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driving members are substantially parallel over a certain distance.

12. (Previously Presented) The driving apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the at least two driving members extend adjacent to each other over a certain distance.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of moving a driven member of a driving apparatus, the method comprising the acts of:

moving over half of at least three driving members of the driving apparatus that are frictionally engaged to the driven member from a first to a second position at substantially the same

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time; and

returning the at least three driving members from the second to the first position in groups comprising less than half of the at least three driving members, wherein the driven member substantially remains stationary during said returning act.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said moving and returning acts are repeated until said driven member has been moved over a desired distance.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) An optical system comprising a slide and the driving apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the slide is fixed to the at least one driven member.

18. (Currently Amended) A driving apparatus comprising:
at least ~~two~~ three driving members;
at least one driven member; and
means for moving the driven member by moving over half of the

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at least ~~two~~ three driving members that are frictionally engaged to the driven member;

wherein said means for moving is further configured to substantially maintain stationary the driven member while moving less than half of the at least three driving members.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The A driving apparatus of claim 18,~~
comprising:

at least two driving members;

at least one driven member; and

means for moving the driven member by moving over half of the at least two driving members that are frictionally engaged to the driven member;

wherein said means for moving is further configured to substantially maintain stationary the driven member while moving less than half of the driving members,

wherein the means for moving is configured to bring the at least two driving members into contact with each other to frictionally engage and move the at least one driven member.

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20. (Currently Amended) The driving apparatus of claim 18,
wherein the at least ~~two~~ three driving members are at least
partially surrounded by part of the at least one driven member.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The A driving apparatus of claim 18,~~
comprising:
at least two driving members;
at least one driven member; and
means for moving the driven member by moving over half of the
at least two driving members that are frictionally engaged to the
driven member;
wherein said means for moving is further configured to
substantially maintain stationary the driven member while moving
less than half of the driving members,

wherein the at least one driven member comprises a section of
a substantially cylindrical element at least partially surrounding
the at least two driving members.

Claim 22 (Canceled)